

FAC Spotlight: Cabinet's Work on Legislation, Laws Recognized as Models for Nation

Six Kentucky laws passed in the past two year's legislative sessions have been lauded by the Council of State Governments as suggested models for other states to follow.



The "tax zapper" bill is one that the Finance Cabinet and the Department of Revenue worked tirelessly on.

This law (HB 69) is a big deal for Kentucky to begin seeing sales tax revenue come in

that was previously being diverted through the use of phantomware.

Basically a tax zapper program allows retailers to avoid paying the sale tax that has been collected from their customers by underreporting their receipts to the Department of Revenue. It's estimated that as much as 30% of cash businesses are using zappers.

Anyone found guilty of possessing or using business record falsification devices will be convicted of a Class D felony and have their sales tax permit revoked for a period of ten years.

In addition to being convicted of a Class D felony, persons found guilty of using phantom-ware will suffer the following consequences:

- All proceeds associated with the tax zapper's creation, sale, or usage shall be forfeited.
- Each permit held by the convicted person shall be revoked for a period of ten years by the Kentucky Department of Revenue.
- The authorities will take the zapper.



Healthy Eating Options Expanded from Pilot Location

Check out page two for the healthy bites menus offered now at state government cafeterias and several local restaurants.

The other five Kentucky bills selected as model legislation included measures to:

- provided civil liability protections to engineers and architects wh volunteer their services after a natural disaster or emergency (Senate Bill 74);
- allow victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to remove their addresses from public voter registration rolls (HB222 – this legislation was passed in 2013);
- allow victims forced into prostitution by human traffickers to take steps to clear their criminal records (SB 184);
- automatically terminate parental and custody rights of anyone convicted of felony rape when the mother chooses to keep the child (SB 108);
- and require businesses to report data breaches of individuals' personal information (HB 232).

The Lexington-based council annually publishes suggested legislation about topics of current importance to states. The goal is to compile draft legislation so states can learn from the experience of others and not to influence the enactment of state legislation, according to the council.

"I want to commend Richard Dobson and his staff in the Department of Revenue, as well as Corey Buckman, the cabinet's legislative liaison," said Sec. Lori H. Flanery. "They worked to educate legislators as to the reasons why Kentucky cannot afford to let retailers get by with under reporting their sales."

"I'm glad that Kentucky is being looked at as an example for passing much needed and thoughtful pieces of legislation," she added.

PERSONNEL MOVES

Charles Bush, deputy commissioner of the Department for Facilities and Support Services has been named a deputy commissioner for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. He begins his new position on Sept. 1.

Bush knows the department well as he is returning after coming to DFSS five years ago. A licensed civil engineer, he served 15 years at F&W (1994 -2008) as the Director of Engineering Division before joining the Finance Cabinet in 2009. He earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Kentucky in 1986 and then worked more than seven years with the Division of Abandoned Mine Lands in the Natural Resources Cabinet. "I'm excited and looking forward to the challenge," said Bush. "It feels like I'm coming home."

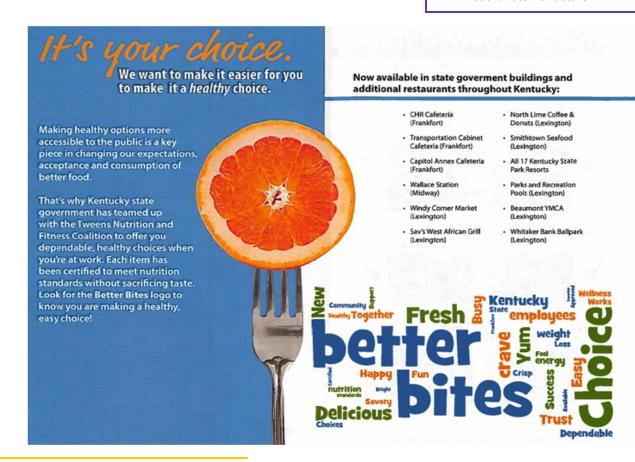
Bush, a devoted deer hunter, says he's claimed a few successes over turkeys as well, but admits they continue to teach him most of the lessons. He lives in Frankfort with his wife, Sandra, and is busy introducing his two new sons-in-law to shooting and hunting.



Don't Forget to Sign Up Early for KECC for Opportunity to Win \$500 Gift Card!

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Have a happy abor Day Weekend!



Kentucky Deferred Comp Expos 2014

Sept. 9 — Frankfort Frankfort Convention Center

Sept. 10 — Louisville Muhammad Ali Center

Oct. 7 — Richmond EKU Center for the Arts

For expo information, please visit www.kentuckydcp.com or call 800-542-2667.

Quote of the Day

Submitted by the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity



"We could learn a lot from crayons; some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, while others bright, some have weird names, but they all have learned to live together in the same box."

- Robert Fulghum